

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A telecommunications system, comprising:
  - 5 a plurality of network clients including a positioning controller and a communications controller; and
  - a positioning server configured to receive position information from said positioning controller;
  - wherein said positioning server includes a timer for determining when said
  - 10 position information is to be received from associated ones of said plurality of network clients.
2. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said positioning controller receives global positioning network signals for determining  
15 a position of an associated network client.
3. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 2, wherein said communications controller comprises a cellular network controller for transmitting on a cellular telephone network to said server.  
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4. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 1, wherein said server sends one or more queries to an associated network client if a status message has not been received within a predetermined period as determined by said timer.  
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5. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.
6. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 4, wherein said  
30 predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.

7. A telecommunications device, comprising:

a positioning controller adapted to determine positioning information for said telecommunications device; and

5 a wireless data controller adapted to receive said positioning information from said positioning controller and cause said positioning information to be transmitted to an associated server at predetermined intervals.

8. A telecommunications device as recited in claim 7, wherein said

10 positioning controller receives Global Positioning System (GPS) signals to determine said positioning information.

9. A telecommunications device as recited in claim 7, wherein said

wireless data controller is adapted to receive requests from said server to provide

15 positioning information-related updates to said server.

10. A telecommunications server, comprising:

a presence control unit adapted to receive and maintain presence information for a plurality of users; and

20 a location control unit adapted to receive and maintain location information for said plurality of users, said location information correlated with said presence information;

wherein said location control unit includes a timer for determining when said location information is to be received from associated ones of said plurality of users.

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11. A telecommunications server in accordance with claim 10, wherein said location control unit is adapted to query an associated one of said plurality of users if a status message has not been received within a predetermined period determined by said timer.

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12. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 11, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.

13. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 11, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.

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14. A telecommunications method, comprising:

receiving one or more positioning signals at a wireless device; and

transmitting position updates from said wireless device via a wireless data network to a server, said server including a timer for determining when said position

10 updates are to be received from said wireless device.

15. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said receiving one or more positioning signals comprises receiving one or more signals from a global positioning network.

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16. A telecommunications method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said server is adapted to query said wireless device if a predetermined status message has not been received within a predetermined period determined by said timer.

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17. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 16, wherein said predetermined status message comprises one or more identification signals.

18. A telecommunications system in accordance with claim 16, wherein  
25 said predetermined status message comprises one or more location-related update signals.